

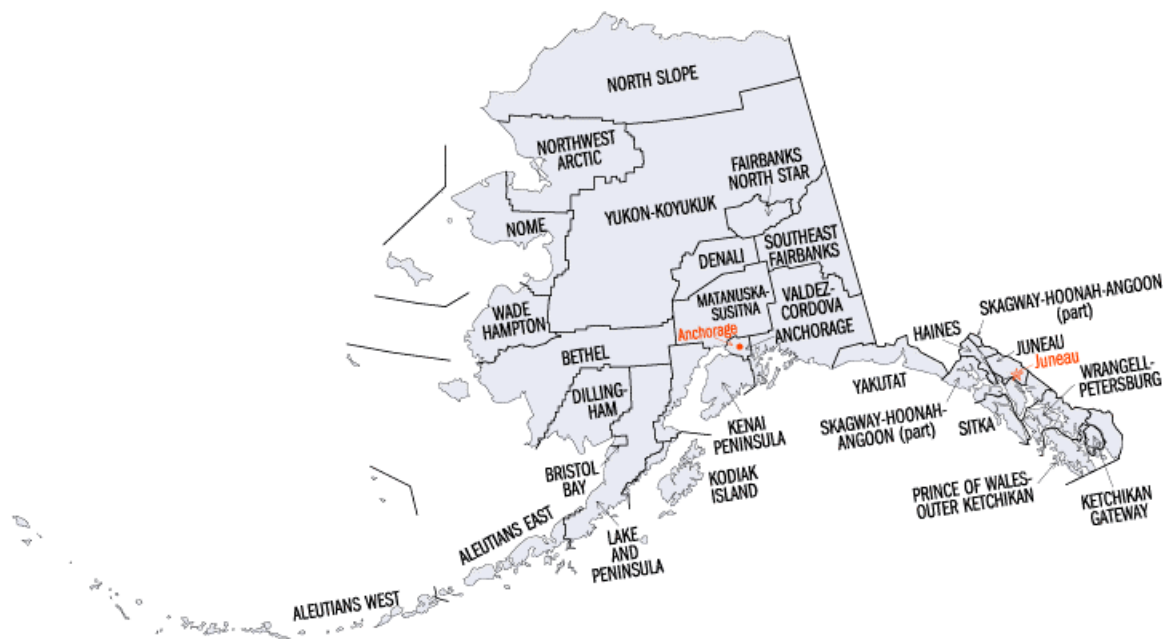
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alaska

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Alaska

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 634,892 (2001 estimate); 626,932 (2000 census)
- Age: 30.4% under 18 years old, 5.7% 65 years or older
- Race/Ethnicity: 69.3% White, 3.5% Black, 15.6% American Indian, and Alaska Native, 4.0% Asian, 0.5% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 1.6% other race, 5.4% two or more races, 4.1% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)

Politics

- Governor: Tony Knowles²
- Lt. Governor: Fran Ulmer³
- Attorney General: Bruce M. Botelho⁴
- U.S. Senate Representatives: Frank Murkowski (R), Ted Stevens (R)⁵
- U.S. House Representatives: Don Young (R)⁶
- Capital City: Juneau⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- (ADIS) Alcohol/Drug Information School⁸
Through the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the ADIS Program provides education to first-time Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenders, as well as those offenders convicted of other alcohol/drug related misdemeanors who are not assessed as abusive or dependent drinkers. The goal of the program is to reduce the subsequent alcohol and/or other drug related offenses and associated high-risk behaviors.
- Diineegwashii, funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, is a substance-abuse prevention program targeting Alaska Native girls. The program uses house visits and case management to strengthen bonds between the adolescent girl and her family.⁹

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Alaska awarded funding by ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:¹⁰
 - FY 2002:
 - \$100,000 was awarded to the Yakutat Healthy Community Coalition, Yakutat.
 - FY 2001:
 - \$100,000 was awarded to the Alaska Council of School Administrators Mayor's Task Force on Youth, Douglas.
 - \$88,274 was awarded to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Safe and Drug Free Schools Advisory Council, Fairbanks.

- \$94,499 was awarded to the Valdez Regional Health Authority, Valdez Youth Awareness Council, Valdez.
- FY 2000:
 - \$100,000 was awarded to the Women In Safe Homes, Revilla Island Prevention Coalition, Ketchikan.
- FY 1999: No grantees awarded funding in Alaska
- FY 1998:
 - \$100,000 was awarded to the Nome Community Center, Inc, Nome.
 - \$98,720 was awarded to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Sitka.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹¹
Anchorage is currently the only site in Alaska that has received funding and officially been recognized as a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Summary for Alaska:¹²
 - Formula Funding - \$5,735,536
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$4,277,240
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$773,396
 - Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$384,900
 - Discretionary Funding - \$28,524,337
 - Mental Health - \$7,954,327
 - Substance Prevention - \$5,897,000
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$14,673,010
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$9,412,623
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$24,847,250
 - Total Funds for Alaska: \$34,259,873
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Alaska: \$2,158,472¹³
- FY 2001 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Alaska: \$308,584¹⁴
- Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant awarded in Alaska during FY 2001: \$80,284 was awarded to Chenana Apartments, Fairbanks.¹⁵

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January to September 2001, more than fifty percent of Anchorage adult male arrestees tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest.¹⁶

Percentage Positive for Drugs, Adult Male Arrestees, Anchorage, 2001

Cocaine	19.8%
Opiates	4.9
Marijuana	39.8
Methamphetamine	0.5
PCP	0.0
Any of Above Drugs	52.4
Multiple Drugs	11.3

- During 2000, there were 1,747 drug abuse violation arrests in Alaska.¹⁷

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Alaska, 1999-2000

Offense	1999	2000
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	36	21
Forcible Rape	134	82
Robbery	188	122
Aggravated Assault	1,089	979
Burglary	605	576
Larceny Theft	3,166	3,568
Motor Vehicle Theft	441	371
Arson	18	24
Drug Abuse Violations	1,841	1,747
Driving Under the Influence	4,316	4,452
Liquor Laws	1,539	1,448
Drunkenness	15	15

- During 2001, the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit arrested 759 persons for drug-related offenses, 291 of which were repeat offenders.¹⁸

Drug-Related Arrests and Cases, Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit, Alaska, 2000-2001

	2000	2001
Possession	288	265
Distribution/Sell	132	135
Transportation	189	173
Marijuana Cultivation	120	148
Methamphetamine Manufacturing	26	23
Usage/Buying (drugs)	9	3
Other	4	12
Total Arrests	768	759
Total Number of Repeat Offenders	268	291
Total Drug/Alcohol Cases	2,727	3,115

Drugs

- Cocaine is readily available in most areas of Alaska. Powder cocaine usually sells for \$100-150 per gram and primarily ingested by snorting. Crack cocaine is sold in small rock quantities for \$20 and is usually smoked.¹⁹
- Marijuana is available throughout Alaska and is considered to be a gateway drug for young adults and teenagers. There is a high demand for Alaskan-grown marijuana because of its high THC content.²⁰
- Methamphetamine use is on the rise in the state. Manufacture and distribution have reached alarming proportions.²¹
- During 1999, 10.7% of persons 12 and older in Alaska reported using an illicit drug within the past month.²²

Juveniles

- During 2000, there were 420 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Alaska.²³

Juvenile Arrests in Alaska, 1999-2000

Offense	1999	2000
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	5	2
Forcible Rape	22	16
Robbery	48	36
Aggravated Assault	154	143
Burglary	341	344
Larceny Theft	1,350	1,543
Motor Vehicle Theft	191	188
Arson	9	7
Drug Abuse Violations	405	420
Driving Under the Influence	62	86
Liquor Laws	443	448

- Over half (57.1%) of Alaskan high school students surveyed in 1999 used marijuana at least once in their lifetimes, the national average was 47.2%.²⁴

Percent of Alaska* High School Students Using Drugs, 1999

Drug Type/Use Category	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	56.1%	57.5%	57.1%
Current Marijuana Use	27.4	32.8	30.7
Lifetime Cocaine Use	8.4	8.5	8.8
Current Cocaine Use	3.3	4.3	4.1
Lifetime Inhalant Use	15.7	13.1	14.5
Current Inhalant Use	3.3	4.8	4.3
Lifetime Heroin Use	2.7	4.6	3.9
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	10.5	10.5	10.9
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	3.6	5.9	5.0
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	2.1	4.3	3.5

*Survey did not include students from one of the Alaska's large school districts

Enforcement

- During 2000 the State of Alaska employed 1,786 law enforcement personnel, 1,116 of which were officers.²⁵
- Alaska State Troopers Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU)
The SDEU coordinates law enforcement efforts to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol throughout the state. SDEU supports five investigative teams throughout the state:²⁶
- Airport Interdiction Team
 - Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team
 - Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team
 - Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

- Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

Trafficking and Seizures

- Alaska exports its marijuana because of the drug's high quality and potency.²⁷
- Due to the dramatic increase in clandestine laboratories eradicated in 2000 compared to 1999, the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit coordinated with the DEA to train police officers in Alaska on investigating suspected clandestine laboratories. Several labs were eradicated shortly after the training was received. The number of labs detected in Alaska has dropped from 50 in 2000 to 21 in 2001.²⁸
- Cocaine enters Alaska through the Anchorage Airport and through parcel express companies and the U.S. Postal Service.²⁹
- Cocaine trafficking is increasing in Alaska because of the high price drug traffickers' demand from their customers.³⁰
- Mexican black tar heroin is the most common type of heroin seized by the DEA for local distribution and use. Dominicans are the primary distributors of heroin and Mexican nationals play a less significant role.³¹
- In Alaska, organized criminal groups smuggle methamphetamine into the state for re-distribution. Local production of methamphetamine is done in small "Mom & Pop" clandestine laboratories, and exist for personal consumption and non-organized criminal distribution cells.³²
- According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, "In 2001, the Anchorage Police Department identified a source in Oregon that mailed 100 Ecstasy tablets to a student in Anchorage. The tablets were fronted (not paid for by the student) in hopes of establishing a market for the drug. In March 2000, Alaska's largest MDMA seizure of 8,350 tablets occurred in Anchorage. The package was shipped via FedEx from Ontario, Canada. In September 2000, officials in China seized a shipment of 100,000 Ecstasy tablets destined for Anchorage. These tablets were a new variety of MDA, not MDMA; and is the largest identified shipment destined for Anchorage. A medical company in China was involved with supplying the illegal substances, which were destined for the U.S. domestic market."³³
- Less than 5% of the marijuana in Alaska is grown outdoors making detection and seizure difficult. In 1998 Alaska was one of the five leading indoor grow states in the United States, along with California, Florida, Oregon, and Kentucky. Proposition 5, the bill legalizing marijuana in Alaska, did not pass in the November 2000 statewide election.³⁴
- Alaska is one of the top five purchasing states for five of the top twelve diverted drugs, including Fentanyl, D-Amphetamine, Oxycodone, Methadone and Meperidine. Benzodiazepine is also widely abused.³⁵
- During 2001, 14.6 kilograms of marijuana was seized in Alaska.³⁶

Federal Drug Seizures, Alaska, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	38.2 kilogram
Heroin	0 kilograms
Methamphetamine	0.7 kilograms
Marijuana	14.6 kilograms

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration's Marijuana Eradication and Suppression program was responsible for eradicating 11,617 cultivated marijuana plants in Alaska.³⁷

Results of Marijuana Eradication Program, Alaska, 2000

<i>Outdoor operations</i>	
Plots eradicated	12
Cultivated plants eradicated	709
Ditchweed eradicated	0
<i>Indoor operations</i>	
Grows seized	87
Cultivated plants eradicated	10,908
Total cultivated plants eradicated	11,617
Bulk processed marijuana	28
Number of arrests	132
Number of weapons seized	94
Value of assets seized	\$256,800

- During 2001, the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit seized 1,788 MDMA tablets in Alaska.³⁸

Drug Seizures, Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit, Alaska, 2000-2001

Drug Type/Amount Seized	2000	2001
Cocaine/Crack (pounds)	113	63.62
Marijuana Plants	11,617	8,821*
Marijuana (processed- pounds)	124.8	87.49
Methamphetamine (pounds)	0.66	1.74
Ecstasy-MDMA (tablets)	--	1,788
Alcohol (gallons)	585.7	429.75
Heroin (pounds)	0.05	0.08
LSD (dosage units)	506	10
Mushrooms (pounds)	1.2	0.45
Opium (pounds)	0.18	0.35

*Reduction of the most usable form would produce approximately 300 pounds of marketable marijuana.

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁹
As of June 2002, there were 4 drug courts that were recently implemented and 14 drug courts being planned in Alaska.

- In FY 2001 there were 195 Federal defendants in Alaska. 41% of the offenders were charged with a drug-related offense.⁴⁰

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Alaska, FY 2001

Drug Type	
Powder cocaine	38.8%
Crack cocaine	26.3
Heroin	0.0
Marijuana	12.5
Methamphetamine	18.8
Other	3.8

Corrections

- On December 31, 2001, there were 4,546 prisoners under State or Federal correctional authority in Alaska.⁴¹
- As of December 2001, there were 4,855 adults on probation and 522 adults on parole in Alaska.⁴²

Consequences of Use

- The Alaskan State Medical Examiner's Office reported 1,094 deaths in 2001. Of the descendents, 369 toxicology screens were completed, showing that 31% of the deaths were directly contributed to alcohol and/or drug abuse.⁴³

Treatment

- During 2000, there were 5,563 total substance abuse treatment admissions in Alaska.⁴⁴

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Alaska, 2000

	Number	Percentage
Alcohol	2,695	48.4%
Alcohol with secondary drug	1,787	32.1
Cocaine (smoked)	194	3.5
Cocaine (other route)	147	2.6
Marijuana	524	9.4
Heroin	31	0.6
Other opiates	64	1.2
PCP	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	3	0.1
Amphetamines	53	1.0
Other stimulants	--	0.0
Tranquilizers	4	0.1
Sedatives	8	0.1
Inhalants	9	0.2
Other/unknown	44	0.8
Total	5,563	100.0

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